THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Osmania University has been set up by an Act of the Legislature of Andhra Pradesh. It is primarily the responsibility of Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide adequate Plan and Non-Plan grants to the University. The information regarding cuts, if any, made by the State Government in the grants of Osmania University is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Super speciality degree courses

2271. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce super-speciality degree courses in subjects like Karamkand (rituals performed by priests) and Vedic Astrology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would also take up the cause of genuine purohits who are well-versed in performing vedic rites and consider them for training purposes in the proposed set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Considering that expertise in the Karamkand, both in quality and quantity, is not readily available and that there is an urgent need to rejuvenate the science of Vedic Astrology, the University Grants Commission (UGC) decided to approve, in principle, the Scheme of setting up of Departments of Karamkand and Vedic Astrology in selected Indian Universities. These Departments would impart teaching and training leading to certificate, diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. degrees in the subjects. The Commission has decided to set up an Expert Committee to examine the details of the proposed schemes and submit its report to the Commission for consideration.